Pennsylvania Western University
Council of Trustees, Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026
2 p.m.
PennWest Clarion – James Gemmell Student Center, Rooms 250-252
Payne St., Clarion, PA

Meeting Minutes

The Council of Trustees of Pennsylvania Western University met in regular session on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the PennWest Clarion campus, James Gemmell Student Center, Rooms 250-252. The meeting began at 2:01 p.m.

ATTENDING

Council of Trustees:

P	Mark Bellini	P	Barry Niccolai
P	JD Dunbar (virtual)	P	Donna Oberlander (virtual)
P	Aiden Dougan (virtual)	P	Kathy Pape
P	Timothy John	P	Larry Pickett
P	Danny Jones	P	Neil Weaver
P	Patricia Kennedy (virtual)	P	Tyrique Whitson
P	Barbara Logue	A	Mohamed Yamba

Attendance was taken at the direction of Vice Chair Pickett and established that a quorum of the Council was present.

Also present were:

Jon Anderson, President	Zach Nahass, University Legal Counsel
Jim Fisher, Interim Provost and VP of Academic Affairs	Jamie Phillips, Co-Chair of Faculty Senate, Clarion campus
Jim Geiger, VP for Advancement and Clarion Campus Administrator	Robin Weaver, Co-Chair Faculty Senate, California Campus
Kelly Repinski, VP for Communications and Marketing	Peter Kuvshinikov, Co-Chair Faculty Senate, Edinboro Campus
Susanne Fenske, VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs	Andy Lingwall, APSCUF Representative, Clarion campus
Darren Wagner, VP for Strategic Enrollment Management	Bethany Morrow, Clarion SGA President
Paul Allison, Chief Information Officer and Senior Associate Vice President for Facilities	Raechel Braun, Incoming Clarion Student Trustee
Sheleta Camarda Webb, Associate Vice President of CORE Strategic Initiatives	Jim McGee, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs-Wellness Services
Bob Mehalik, Associate Provost and Graduate Dean	Larry Sebek, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Tim Stevenson, Associate Dean	Anna Stewart, Executive Staff Associate

Wendy Mackall, Executive Director of Executive Communications and PR Relations	Shawn Hoke, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Jackie Knaust, Interim Dean	Juanice Vega, Associate Dean

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Full report in video archive)
President Anderson provided a university update, expressed appreciation to outgoing trustees Whitson and John for their dedicated service, and welcomed incoming student trustees Braun and Gregory. He also recognized PennWest Edinboro student Sade Taylor on her appointment to the Board of Governors and acknowledged the 2025 Faculty Emeritus awardees.

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT (Full report in video archive)
Vice Chair Pickett recognized outgoing student trustees Whitson and John, who will graduate in May, and presented them with certificates and gifts in appreciation of their service. Vice Chair Pickett also welcomed incoming student trustees Raechel Braun, who will succeed Timothy John at the Clarion campus, and Addison Gregory, who will succeed Tyrique Whitson at the California campus.

Chair Dunbar recognized Trustee Oberlander for receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Clarion Chamber of Commerce. She also expressed appreciation to the student trustees for their presentations at the RULE Study Institute held in Clarion the week prior, and thanked Dr. Fenske, Jim McGee, Dave Hartley, Donna Oberlander, President Anderson, and the Clarion campus staff for their contributions to the event's success.

Vice Chair Pickett announced that due to Trustee Whitson's upcoming graduation in May the position of secretary will be vacant until the upcoming elections in October. During that time the trustee liaison will continue to record the meeting minutes, and the chair will make the necessary motions for their approval.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Full report in video archive)
Trustee Weaver reported that Trustees Jones and Oberlander have been appointed to the nominating committee. Trustee Weaver (or Rachel) will distribute an email to all trustees outlining the positions and associated responsibilities and will request nominations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Full report in video archive) – None.

REMARKS BY APSCUF (Full comments in video archive)
Dr. Andy Lingwall provided remarks on behalf of the APSCUF leadership.

FACULTY SENATE REMARKS (Full comments in video archive)
Dr. Jamie Phillips provided remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT (Full reports in video archive)
Student Trustee Aiden Dougan (Edinboro) reported on activities on the Edinboro campus, Student Trustee Tyrique Whitson (California) reported on activities at the California campus,

and Student Trustee Timothy John (Clarion) along with Clarion Student Senate President Bethany Morrow reported on activities on the Clarion campus.

PACT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)
Trustee Bellini provided updates on PACT activities.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
Chair Dunbar requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- Meeting Minutes 1-22-2026 Regular Meeting
- Order of Succession Resolution

The motion was made by Trustee Pape, seconded by Trustee Bellini, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING UPDATE (Full report in video archive)
Trustee Maggi, committee chair, provided an update on committee activity. Kelly Repinski, Vice President for Communications and Marketing, followed with an update on spring initiatives, social media and website metrics, the Merit platform, the Within Reach campaign, web optimization efforts, and collaboration initiatives.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Full remarks in video archive)
Trustee Jones, committee chair, provided an update on committee activity. Dr. Jim Fisher, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the division report.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE (Full report in video archive)
Darren Wagner, Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided an update on recruitment and enrollment.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE (Full report in video archive)
Trustee Pickett provided an update on the joint Student Affairs and Finance and Administration committee activity.

Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration, Betsy Espe, presented the proposed capital spending plan.

The following motion was made by Trustee Maggi, seconded by Trustee Pape, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

> **THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN PROPOSED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027 THROUGH 2030-2031.**

Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration, Betsy Espe, along with Dr. Susanne Fenske, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs, presented the proposed student fees, room rates and meal plan rates.

The following motion was made by Trustee Niccolai, seconded by Trustee Jones, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE STUDENT FEE RATE AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE FALL 2026-2027.

The following motion was made by Trustee Weaver, seconded by Trustee Whitson, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ROOM RATES AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE FALL 2026-2027.

The following motion was made by Trustee Bellini, seconded by Trustee Niccolai, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE STUDENT MEAL PLAN RATE AS PRESENTED EFFECTIVE FALL 2026-2027.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT REPORT (Full report in video archive)
Trustee Niccolai, committee chair, provided an update on committee activity.

Jim Geiger, Vice President for Advancement and Clarion Campus Administrator, presented the University Advancement report, and presented the proposed resolution to name the Pennsylvania Western University Eberly College of Science, Technology and Business.

The following motion was made by Trustee Niccolai, seconded by Trustee Whitson, and passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Trustee Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Bellini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously after a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Meeting webcast is available here.